

34912

SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 3, 2004

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-872X]

Great Northwest Railroad, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption – in Clearwater County, ID

On July 14, 2004, Great Northwest Railroad, Inc. (GNR), filed with the Board a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a line of railroad extending from milepost 3.5, at Orofino, ID, to milepost 31.0, near Jaype, ID, a distance of approximately 27.5 miles, in Clearwater County, ID. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 83544 and 83546 and includes no stations.

The line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in GNR's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

The interest of railroad employees will be protected by the conditions set forth in Oregon Short Line R. Co.–Abandonment–Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

By issuance of this notice, the Board is instituting an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final decision will be issued by November 1, 2004.

Any offer of financial assistance (OFA) under 49 CFR 1152.27(b)(2) will be due no later than 10 days after service of a decision granting the petition for exemption. Each offer must be accompanied by a \$1,100 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

All interested persons should be aware that, following abandonment of rail service and salvage of the line, the line may be suitable for other public use, including interim

trail use. Any request for a public use condition under 49 CFR 1152.28 or for trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 will be due no later than August 13, 2004. Each trail use request must be accompanied by a \$150 filing fee. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(27).

All filings in response to this notice must refer to STB Docket No. AB-872X and must be sent to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001; and (2) Karl Morell, Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005. Replies to the CSXT petition are due on or before August 13, 2004.

Persons seeking further information concerning abandonment procedures may contact the Board's Office of Public Services at (202) 565-1592 or refer to the full abandonment or discontinuance regulations at 49 CFR part 1152. Questions concerning environmental issues may be directed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at (202) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.]

An environmental assessment (EA) (or environmental impact statement (EIS), if necessary) prepared by SEA, will be served upon all parties of record and upon any agencies or other persons who commented during its preparation. Other interested persons may contact SEA to obtain a copy of the EA (or EIS). EAs in these abandonment proceedings normally will be made available within 60 days of the filing of the petition. The deadline for submission of comments on the EA will generally be within 30 days of its service.

Board decisions and notices are available on the Board's website at
"WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: July 26, 2004.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary